

2019 Humanities Summer School

University of Bergamo (Italy) in collaboration with Fairleigh Dickinson University (USA)

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Migration, identity and memory in a transnational perspective

Dr. Paolo Ruspini



"They would close to the newcomer the bridge that carried them and their fathers over"

Source: "Looking Backward", Puck, 11 January 1893, by Joseph Ferdinand Keppler

This course aims at exploring migrants' identity and memory in a transnational setting - the way in which memory and identity migrate, glocalize, transform, multiply over temporal and spatial dimensions. Transnationalism as a concept is neither new nor limited to migration-related phenomena, but refers to a wide range of actions, processes and institutions that cross the boundaries of states or national-communities. In contemporary debates, the notion of transnationalism has been generally used to refer to migrants' ongoing ties with source countries. By emphasising the transnational dimension, we can move beyond the nation state as unit of analysis and explore the linkages, interconnections of memory, migration, and identity between different localities in Europe and beyond. Therefore, we look at memory and migration processes in a continuum including the way these real and virtual flows of people and ideas reshape the sense of belonging across several generations.

Structure

The course will be articulated in six sessions of one or more lectures as follows: (1) International migration: current trends and dynamics; (2) European immigration since the Post-Second World War era; (3) Migrant transnationalism: concept and practices; (4) Transnationalism and immigrant integration; (5) Migration, identity and memory beyond the nation state; (6) Conclusions: theoretical and empirical challenges ahead.

Learning outcomes

At the end, students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the current trends and dynamics of international migration; of the European immigration history since the end of the Second World War; of the interrelation between migrant transnationalism and immigrant integration; of the way memory, identity and migration intersect beyond the nation states; and finally, of the challenges that different migrant generations are currently facing.

Indicative learning activities

In session

Tutor presentation on key readings, other relevant publications and migration related sources (databases, glossaries, videos, etc.).

Elaborating one's own position about the current extent of international migration and memory processes in Europe and beyond through group and plenary discussion.

Presentation of one's own position about international migration and memory processes in Europe and beyond through group and plenary discussion.

Follow-up

Revising/focusing/sharpening one's own position about the current size and breadth of international migration flows, the linkage between memory and migration in a transnational setting and the challenges faced by different migrant generations based on the moderated discussions in session.

Approaches to teaching and learning

Independent self-study

Personal experience on the topic

Lecture

Reflection

Moderated discussion

Presentation

Final written exam: open questions or paper

Required readings

Canefe, N. (2011) "Home in Exile: Politics of Refugeehood in the Canadian Muslim Diaspora", in J. Creet, A. Kitzmann (Eds.) *Memory and Migration: Multidisciplinary Approaches to Memory Studies*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 156-180.

Koser, K. (2007) *International Migration: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Mihailov, D., Richter, M. and Ruspini, P. (2017) "Social Networks and Transnational Migration Practices", in M. Richter, P. Ruspini, D. Mihailov, V. Mintchev and M. Nollert (Eds) *Migration and Transnationalism Between Switzerland and Bulgaria*, New York: Springer, pp. 153-180.

Mitzal, B. (2003) "Memory and identity", in *Theories of Social Remembering*, Maidenhead, England: Open University Press, 132-8.

Mügge, L. (2016) "Transnationalism as a Research Paradigm and Its Relevance for Integration", in B. Garcés-Mascreñas, R. Penninx (eds.), *Integration Processes and Policies in Europe. Contexts, Levels and Actors*, IMISCOE Research Series, New York: Springer Open, 109-125.

Ruspini, P. (2014) "The Transformative Character of International Migration and its Impact on Integration Practices and Learning Needs", in F. Bignami, M.G. Onorati (Eds.) *Intercultural Competences for Vocational Education and Training. Experiential Learning and Social Contexts for Enhancing Professional Competences*, Milan: Egea, 89-98.

Ruspini, P. (2011) "Conceptualising Transnationalism: East-West Migration Patterns in Europe", in C. Allemann Ghionda, W.D. Bukow (Eds.) *Orte der Diversität: Formate, Arrangements und Inszenierungen*, Wiesbaden: VS Verlag, 115-127.

Ruspini, P. (2019) "Migrants unbound? Transnationalism, immigrant integration and return processes", in M. Czaika, L. Rössl, F. Altenburg, A. Faustmann, T. Pfeffer (Eds.), *Migration & Integration 7. Dialog zwischen Politik, Wissenschaft und Praxis*, Reihe DialogForum Integration, Krems: Edition Donau-Universität Krems, pp. 65-74.

Additional readings: to be suggested in class.

Didactic tools

Statistics and Glossaries

Eurostat - Statistics Explained, *Migration and migrant population statistics*, Data extracted in March 2019, Brussels: European Commission. At: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Migration_and_migrant_population_statistics

Perruchoud, R., Redpath-Cross, J. (2011) (eds.) *Glossary on Migration*, 2nd Edition, International Migration Law, N. 25, Geneva: International Organization for Migration (IOM). At: https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml25_1.pdf

Classes schedule

Tuesday, 18 June 2019 (h. 10.00 – 13.00 and 14.00 – 17.00)

International migration: current trends and dynamics

Thursday, 20 June 2019 (h. 10.00 – 13.00 and 14.00 – 17.00)

European immigration since the Post-Second World War Era

Friday, 21 June 2019 (h. 14.00 – 17.00)

Migrant transnationalism: concept and practices

Tuesday, 25 June 2019 (h. 10.00 – 13.00 and 14.00-17.00)

Transnationalism and immigrant integration

Thursday, 27 June 2019 (h. 10.00 – 13.00 and 14.00 – 17.00)

Migration, identity and memory beyond the nation state

Friday, 28 June 2019 (h. 14.00 – 17.00)

Conclusions: challenges ahead

Final written exam (open questions in class) or alternatively an 8/10-page paper (for submission by the 12th July 2019)